

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this Application and stand rejected. In view of the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's thoughtful reconsideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103:

Claims 1-12 were rejected as being anticipated by USPN 5,982,507 issued to Weiser. In view of USPN 6,292,796 issued to Drucker.

Claim 1 recites a system for distributing information that includes the following combination of elements.

1. a first client computer having first software with a print functionality;
2. a second client computer;
3. a network connecting said first and second client computers; and
4. means for effecting communication of a document from said first client to said second client as email via said print functionality thereof.

Weiser not Drucker, individually and combined, fail to teach or suggest "means for effecting communication of a document from said first client to said second client as email via said print functionality thereof" as recited by Claim 1.

The Examiner asserts that Weiser teaches each of the first three elements listed above. The Examiner admits, however, that Weiser fails to teach "means for effecting communication of a document from said first client to said second client as email via said print functionality thereof." With respect to this deficiency, the Examiner relies on Drucker, col. 10, lines 21-32, reproduced as follows:

The user may select the full text of an article by selecting one of entries (e.g., lines 608A-608C) in display 606. Access mechanism 402 retains a location (e.g., URL) from which the full text of an article contained in the filter search results may be obtained. If the user selects one of lines 608A-608C, access mechanism 402 uses the location information to obtain the full text and display it in display 610 of FIG. 6C. The user may scroll through the full text. Further, the user is presented with the options of printing, emailing or saving the article (i.e., buttons 634A-634C, respectively). The user may also save all of the search results using button 634D.

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Druker, col. 10, lines 21-32.

The cited passage does not teach or suggest means for effecting communication of a document from said first client to said second client as email via the print functionality of a client computer's software as recited by Claim 1. The passage merely describes a user interface (610) of a viewer (518). User interface (610), illustrated in Druker, Fig. 6C (reproduced below), includes control buttons (634A)-(634D).

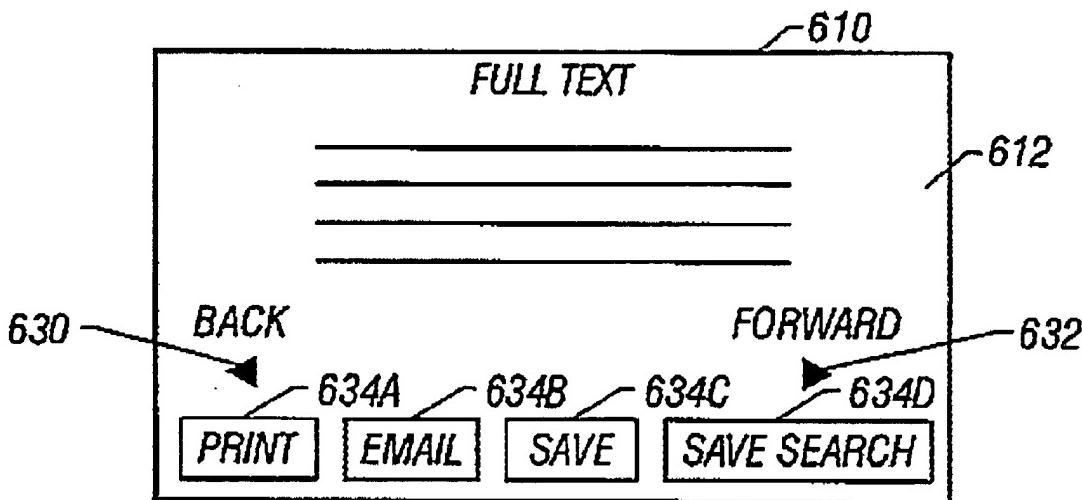


FIGURE 6C

User interface 610 is displayed when a user chooses to view the full text of an article. Druker, col. 10, lines 47-49. Selection of print button (634A) causes viewer (518) to execute some form of print functionality to send the full text to a printer. The selection of email button 634B causes viewer (518) to execute some form of e-mail functionality to email the full text to an email recipient. There is NO suggestion that the selection of print button (634A) would cause the full text to be communicated from one device to another as email via a software's print functionality as recited by Claim 1. There is NO suggestion that the selection of email button (634B) causes the execution of a software's print functionality. Such an assertion is simply not logical.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 2-8 are also patentable over the references due at least in part on their dependency from Claim 1.

Claim 9 recites a system for distributing information that includes the following combination of elements:

1. a plurality of client computers, at least one client computer having application software with a print functionality;
2. a server;
3. a network connecting said client computers and said server; and
4. means for effecting communication of a document from said first client to said second client through said server as email via said print functionality of said application software, said means effecting communication including a first agent running on said client and a second agent running on said server.

As with Claim 1, the Examiner mistakenly contends that Druker teaches means for effecting communication of a document from said first client to said second client through said server as email via said print functionality of said application software. It is important to note that the Examiner does not even address the additional portion of Claim 9 reciting that the means for effecting communication a first agent running on said client and a second agent running on said server.

The Examiner has failed to assert that the references teach all the limitations of Claim 9. Moreover, Druker does not teach means for effecting communication of a document from said first client to said second client through said server as email via said print functionality of said application software. For at least these reasons, the Examiner's rejection of claim 9 is defective. Consequently, Claim 9 is patentable over the cited references as are Claims 10 and 11 which depend from Claim 9.

Claim 12 recites a method for distributing information that includes the following combination of elements:

1. providing a first client computer with first software with a print functionality;

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2. providing a second client computer;
3. connecting said first and second client computers with a network; and
4. effecting communication of a document from said first client to said second client as email via said print functionality of said first client.

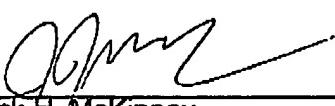
As discussed above with reference to Claims 1 and 9, the cited references fail to teach or suggest effecting communication of a document from the first client to the second client as email via the software print functionality of the first client. For at least these reasons, Claim 12 is patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-12 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
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